

REMARKS

Claims 7-10, 19-25, 34-36, 38-50 and 52-61 are in this application and are presented for consideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 7, 24, 34, 38, 43, 44, 46 and 52 to place the claims in better form for appeal. No new issues have been presented by the amendments to the claims.

Claims 7-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tajima et al. (JP 403003030A).

The present invention advantageously relates to an apparatus equipped with a scanner unit. The apparatus comprises a base apparatus and a scanner that is removably mounted on the base apparatus. The base apparatus includes a first sheet transporting path that extends substantially vertically to guide a sheet downward along the first sheet transporting path. A second sheet transporting path extends substantially vertically and is defined by a surface of the scanner apparatus and a surface of the base apparatus when the scanner is mounted to the base apparatus. The scanner apparatus includes a pick roller that is located upstream of the second sheet transporting path and a feed roller that is located downstream of the second sheet transporting path. The first and second sheet transporting paths are adjacent to each and are substantially parallel to each other at their straight guide parts. The scanner apparatus operates as a hand scanner when it is detached from the base apparatus. The present invention advantageously provides for a scanner unit and a printer unit all in one machine. The scanner apparatus can advantageously be removed from the base apparatus so that items can be individually scanned. The present invention is

advantageously space efficient since a separate printer unit and a separate scanning unit are not required. The prior art as a whole fails to teach or suggest such features or advantages.

Tajima et al. discloses a printer device with a scanner. A placing recessed part 3c for placing a scanner part 2 is formed on a side of the printer device 3. A printing paper insertion port 3a is formed on the upper end face side and a discharge port 3d is formed on the lower end face side. The side part of the printer device 3 is detachably fitted to a disk side 99a through a magnet. The scanner part 2 detachably fitted on the recessed part 3 is connected independently of the printer device 3 through a wire harness 101. An image sensor 2a is provided in the housing B to scan the surface of an original paper X. Paper is fed to the scanner part 2 via transporting means Z1, Z2 when the scanner part 2 is attached to the printer device 3. The scanner includes a rotary encoder 54.

Tajima et al. fails to teach or suggest a second sheet transporting path that is defined by a surface of a scanner apparatus and a surface of a base apparatus. In the present invention, the surface of the base apparatus is opposite the scanner apparatus when the scanner apparatus is mounted to the base apparatus. As clearly shown in Figure 1 of Tajima et al., the printer device 3 has two molded transporting sheet paths that are defined within the printer itself. Figure 1 of Tajima clearly shows that the scanner part 2 or any surface thereof does not define the second sheet transporting path when the scanner part 2 is mounted to the printer device 3. Further, the attached enlarged copy of Figure 5 of Tajima et al. shows that the recessed portion of the printer body A is located between the housing of the scanner part 2 and the paper X. Figure 5 of Tajima et al. also depicts that the housing

of the scanner part 2 and the printer body 3 are in contact such that the holes of the scanner part 2 aligns with the holes 4, 80 and 81 of the printer body 3. In contrast to Tajima et al., a surface of the scanner apparatus of the present invention and a surface of the base apparatus define the second sheet transporting path. This advantageously allows the scanner apparatus to be in direct contact with the sheet being scanned, which advantageously provides for better scan quality. This also advantageously allows for the pick roller and the feeding roller located within the scanner apparatus to be in direct contact with paper. This advantageously allows for a uniform feeding force to be applied to the paper so that paper is not distorted while the sheet travels along the second transporting sheet path. Tajima et al. fails to provide such advantages since both transporting sheet paths are defined by spaces defined within the printer body and are not defined by any surface of the scanner part 2. Tajima et al. teaches that the housing of the scanner part 2 is in contact with the printer body 3 and does not define or form any part of the second transporting sheet path. As such, the prior art as a whole teaches a different approach and fails to suggest the features or advantages of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider claim 7 as now presented and all claims that depend thereon.

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tajima et al., and further in view of Shimizu (US 5,663,811). Although Shimizu teaches a facsimile device having automatic detection of regular and manual scanning modes, the references as a whole fail to suggest the combination of features claimed. Specifically, Tajima et al. fails to teach a second transporting sheet path that is defined by a surface of a

scanner apparatus and a surface of a base apparatus. Further, both Tajima et al. and Shimizu fail to disclose a groove which receives a protecting member, which is for protecting a pick roller, as featured in the claimed combination. As such, the references do not suggest the invention and therefore all claims define over the prior art as a whole.

Claims 19-25, 34-36 and 46-50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tajima et al. in view of Shimizu.

Shimizu discloses a facsimile device in which a hand scanner 200 is detachably mounted to a device body 100. The hand scanner 200 is connected through a curled cord 200a to the device body 100. A handset 400 is connected through a curled cord 400a to the facsimile device for communicating purposes. When a document 500 is read in the regular scanner mode, it is set in the document insertion unit 100a of the device 100. The hand scanner 200 can be removed from the device body 100 to read a document 500 in the hand scanner mode. By depression of a hand scanner removal button 100b, the hand scanner 200 is removed from the device body 100 and placed on the document 500 and manually scans the document. A release in the depression of the scanner button 201 ends reading by the scanner 200.

As previously discussed above, Tajima et al. fails to teach or provide any motivation for a sheet transporting path defined by a surface of a scanner apparatus. Further, Tajima et al. and Shimizu fail to provide any motivation for a pivotal shaft. Shimizu merely discloses a hand scanner 200 that can be removed from a device body 100 by pressing a hand scanner removal button 100b. The hand scanner removal button 100b of Shimizu is not connected

to a shaft and does not rotate the hand scanner 200 forward by means of a pivotal shaft as featured in the claimed combination. In contrast to Shimizu, the pivotal shaft of the present invention advantageously rotates the scanner forward so that the scanner can easily be removed to manually scan a document. Shimizu fails to suggest using a pivotal shaft to mount and dismount the hand scanner 200. The references provide no direction or using teaching of Shimizu to modify Tajima et al. As such, the prior art as a whole does not suggest the features of the claimed combination.

Tajima et al. and Shimizu fail to teach or provide any motivation for a base apparatus having a first sheet guide and a scanner apparatus having a second sheet guide. At most, Shimizu discloses a cover 100c of the device body 100 that is opened so that a sheet of paper can be inserted into the printing unit 4. However, Shimizu fails to suggest a sheet guide provided on the scanner apparatus. In contrast to Shimizu, the present invention provides two separate sheet guides, one that is located on the base unit and another that is located on the scanner apparatus. The sheet guides of the present invention are significant since they advantageously allow paper to be feed into the two separate sheet transporting paths without distorting the paper. Both Tajima et al. and Shimizu fail to provide the advantage of feeding paper smoothly without distortion since both references do not suggest one sheet guide for a base apparatus and another sheet guide for a scanner apparatus. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider claims 19, 24, 34 and 46 as now presented and all claims that respectively depend thereon.

Claims 38-40, 42-45 and 52-61 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Shimizu.

Shimizu fails to teach or suggest a sheet transporting path that is defined by a surface of a scanner apparatus and a surface of a base apparatus when the scanner apparatus is mounted to the base apparatus. As clearly shown in Figure 4 of Shimizu, a surface of scanner 5 and a surface of printer body 4 do not form a sheet transporting path as provided in the claimed combination. Further, Shimizu fails to teach or suggest a first transporting guide and a second transporting guide wherein the first transporting guide has a straight guide part and a deflected guide part. In the present invention, the first transporting guide advantageously has a straight part and a deflected part to feed paper so that the paper is feed in an orderly manner without distortion. This advantageously prevents paper jams. In the present invention, the first unit is located at the deflected part of the first transporting guide and the second unit is provided at the second transporting guide. In contrast, Figure 4 of Shimizu clearly shows that the thermal head 41 is not provided at the deflected part of the transporting guide. As such, the prior art as a whole teaches a different approach and fails to provide any motivation for the features of the claimed combination. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner favorably consider claims 38, 52 and 59 as now presented and all claims that respectively depend thereon.

Claim 41 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu, and further in view of Tajima et al. Although Tajima et al. a printer device with a scanner, the references as a whole fail to suggest the combination of features claimed. Specifically, Shimizu fails to teach or suggest a first transporting guide having a straight

guide part and a deflected guide part wherein a first apparatus is located along the deflected guide portion of the first transporting guide. Further, Shimizu does not disclose that the first apparatus is exposed when the second transporting guide is moved along the deflecting guide portion of the first transporting guide. As such, the references do not suggest the invention and therefore all claims define over the prior art as a whole.

Favorable action on the merits is requested.

Respectfully submitted
For Applicant,



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Enclosed: Enlarged copy of Figure 5 of Tajima et al.
Petition for Three Month Extension of Time

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